

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION FSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ABF-01 SCSE-00 /010 W
----- 039718

R 300941Z AUG GUY
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3808

UNCLAS FREETOWN 2704

FOR OPR/FSD/P

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: AFIN
SUBJ: DEATH BENEFITS, JAMES MOMOH CONTEH

REF: STATE 207467

1. POST DISMAYED BY REFTEL, INFERRING CSC WOULD SEND CHECKS TO EACH WIFE AND CHILD WITHIN 2 WEEKS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS
TO CLOSE CASE, BUT BELIEVE CSC HAS BEEN GIVING YOU "BUM STEER" AND COMPLETELY MISHANDLING CASE WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE DECEASED EMPLOYEES FAMILY OR SIERRA LEONE CUSTOMS.

2. POST RECEIVED LETTER FROM CSC EARLY AUGUST WITH SIGNATURE ILLEGIBLE AND SENDER UNKNOWN. REFERENCE LETTER IS RCA:

JAC:JLB CSF 1 062 293, STATED ONLY ONE WIFE (SENIOR WIFE) ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE BENEFITS DESPITE FACT THAT BOTH WIVES RECOGNIZED UNDER GOSL LAW, AND REPEATED NEED FOR PROOF BIRTH OF CHILDREN WHICH FINALLY RECOVERED. AFFIDAVITS OF WITNESSES TO TRIBAL MARRIAGE WERE OBTAINED AND SENT TO CSC AUGUST 18.

3. LETTER'S CORRESPONDENT MENTIONED HE/SHE HAD BEEN QTE REASSIGNED UNQTE CASE. OBVIOUSLY NO ONE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PURSUING CASE WITH UNUSUAL BACKGROUND COMMON TO MANY AFRICAN POSTS.

4. CSC HANDLING OF THIS CASE HAS BEEN INEPT. EMBASSY HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN IN CONSIDERABLY EMBARRASING POSITION TRYING TO EXPLAIN
WHY CLAIM NOW YET SETTLED AND WHY QUESTIONS SUCH AS THOSE
INCLUDED IN REFERENCED LETTER ARE BEING ASKED ONE
YEAR AFTER
ORIGINAL CLAIM FILED. POST HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY FORTUNATE
THAT FAMILY UNDERSTANDING OF EMBASSY'S SINCERE EFFORTS TO
ASSIST. NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, ESPECIALLY IN SIERRA LEONE,
WOULD HAVE INVOLVED POSSIBLE COURT ACTION DUE TO DELAYS.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ALL OF DECEASED EMPLOYEE'S CHILDREN NOW
WITHDRAWN FROM SCHOOL DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS. NOT ONLY HAS THIS SHOWN

USG IN POOR LIGHT, BUT HAS CAUSED CONCERN AMONG
OTHER FSLS AS TO WHAT TREATMENT THEY OR THEIR FAMILIES WILL
RECEIVE UPON RETIREMENT OR DEATH.

5. THOUGH POST BELIEVES YOUR INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN ONLY CONCRETE
ASSISTANCE WE'VE RECEIVED, WE FELL NECESSITY YOU MAKE STRONG
PROTEST CSC ON GROSS MISHANDLING THIS CASE.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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